

In re Appln. Of: Irving C. Erickson et al.
Application No.: 10/702,420

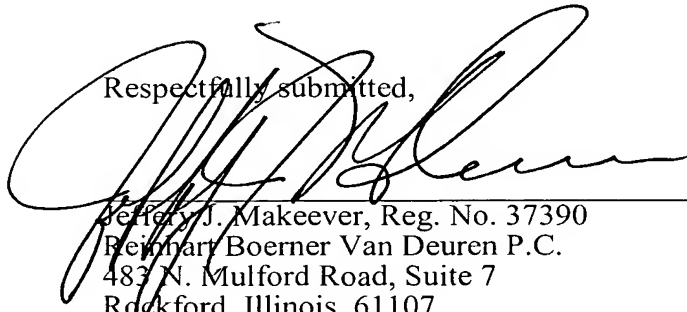
REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 3-6, 8, and 19 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise stand allowable over the prior art of record. The applicants have taken the Examiner's suggestion and have amended these claims to independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, the applicants have amended claims 7, 10, 12, 13, and 15 to depend from these claims, as appropriate. Finally, the applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 14, 17, 18, and 20 without prejudice to the applicants' rights to seek protection of these claims in a continuation application.

The applicants respectfully submit that all grounds of rejection in this application are moot in view of either the cancellation of the rejected claim or the amendment of the rejected claim to depend from one of the claims indicated by the Examiner as being allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of all claims remaining pending in this application and indication of their allowability at an early date are respectfully solicited. Entry of this amendment is believed to be proper as it places the application in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conversation will aid in the resolution of any issues not resolved herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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